

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS**

Submitted herewith is a replacement sheet for Figures 1(A) and 1(B) that include the following changes.

Figure 1A has been amended to show the directional relationship among the direction or warp 101, the direction of weft 102 and the running direction (MD direction) of the belt core layer 11, clearly shows that the direction of the warp 101 of the fabric structure of the surface layer 13 is arranged in the same direction as the running direction (MD direction) of the belt core layer 11.

Additionally, Fig. 1B is amended to change MD direction to CD direction.

Approval and entry of this replacement drawing sheet are respectfully requested.

## **REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and the following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and further examination are requested. Upon entry of this amendment, the specification is amended, the drawings are amended, claims 37 and 49 are amended. No new matter has been added.

### ***Drawings***

The drawings are objected to for failing to show the warp direction of the fabric structure that is arranged in the same direction as the winding length. Applicants submit that claims 37 and 49 are amended to clarify this structure. Moreover, Figure 1A illustrates the relationship between the direction of the weft, the direction of the warp, and the running direction of the belt core layer. That is, Fig. 1A shows that the direction of the warp of the fabric structure is arranged in the same direction as the running direction of the belt core layer. No new matter is added, since this amendment is supported by the specification of this application on page 13, lines 12-15. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this objection be withdrawn.

Additionally, Fig. 1B is amended to change MD direction to CD direction. Support for this amendment is on page 11, lines 21-22 of the specification. Therefore, no new matter is added.

### ***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph***

Claims 37 and 49 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention. In particular, the Examiner states that it is unclear what Applicant means by the warp direction being the same direction as the winding length. Applicants submit that claims 37 and 49 are amended to clarify this structure, and that one of ordinary skill in the art would understand the amended language. Moreover, amended Figure 1A illustrates the relationship between the direction of the weft, the direction of the warp, and the running direction of the belt core layer. That is, Fig. 1A shows that the direction of the warp of the fabric structure is arranged in the same direction as running direction of the belt core layer.

Therefore, Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

***Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a)***

Claims 37-41 and 49-50 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kitamura (JP 11-105171) in view of Meadows (US 3,924,482).

Applicants submit that the claims as now pending are allowable over the cited prior art. Specifically, amended independent claim 37 recites a heat resistant laminated conveyor belt wherein a fabric structure of a surface layer is formed by lapping a wire or wires one on another such that a warp direction of the fabric structure is arranged in a same direction as a running direction of a belt core layer.

The cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious such a conveyor belt. In particular, as recognized by the Examiner, Kitamura fails to disclose a fabric structure that is formed by lapping a wire or wires one on another such that a warp direction of the fabric structure is arranged in a same direction as a winding length direction of the belt. For this element, the Examiner relies on Meadows. *See* pg. 6 of the March 9, 2011 Office Action. However, Applicants submit that neither Kitamura nor Meadows discloses or renders obvious a fabric structure of a surface layer that is formed by lapping a wire or wires one on another such that a warp direction of the fabric structure is arranged in a same direction as a running direction of a belt core layer. At best, Meadows discloses warps that are arranged at an angle relative to a central longitudinal axis through the belt (i.e., the winding direction of the belt). *See* Meadows Abstract. Thus, Applicants submit that neither Meadows nor Kitamura discloses this element of independent claim 37.

Moreover, there is no reasoning in the prior art to modify either Meadows or Kitamura such that the combination thereof would have rendered independent claim 37 obvious. Any such modification would have involved improper hindsight. Therefore, Applicants submit that independent claim 37 and its dependent claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

Applicants submit that independent claim 49 and its dependent claims are allowable for similar reasons to those set forth above. Namely, the cited prior art fails to disclose or render obvious a heat resistant laminated conveyor belt manufacturing method comprising forming a fabric structure of a surface layer by lapping wire or wires one on another such that a warp direction of the fabric structure is arranged in a same direction as a running direction of a belt core layer, as recited in independent claim 49.

***Conclusion***

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, all of the claims now pending in this application are believed to be in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and favorable action are respectfully solicited.

Should the Examiner believe there are any remaining issues that must be resolved before this application can be allowed, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact the undersigned by telephone in order to resolve such issues.

Respectfully submitted,

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/Jeffrey J. Howell/

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# ANNOTATED SHEET

Fig. 1 (A)

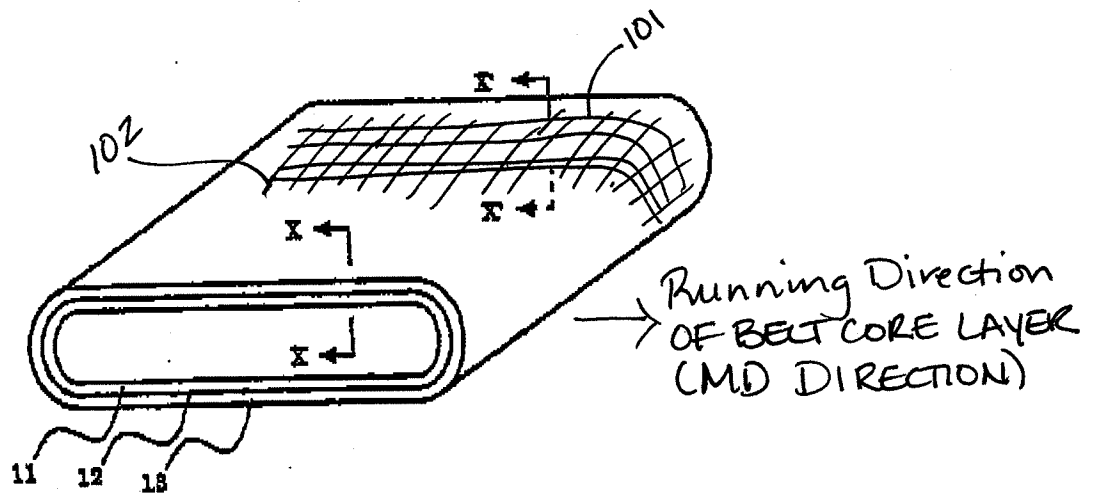


Fig. 1 (B)

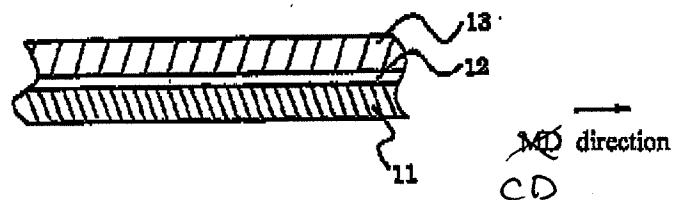
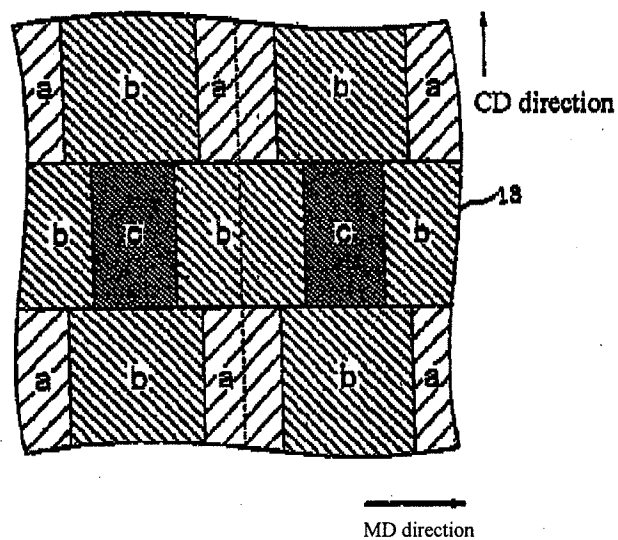


Fig. 1 (C)



- a: Heat resistant fiber or stainless steel wire (CD direction)
- b: Heat resistant fiber or stainless steel wire (MD direction)
- c: Heat resistant fiber or stainless steel wire (CD direction)